



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Continue mowing at the recommended height for your specific variety. Cut no more than 1/3 of the leaf height per mowing. Standard St. Augustine grass should be cut 3-4 inches high and semi-dwarf varieties 2.0-2.5 inches high.
- **Irrigation:** Continue irrigation to prevent water stress, applying $\frac{3}{4}$ inch twice a week if no rain occurs. Grass needs less water in cool season. Once a week could be sufficient, water when leaf blades begin to fold. Irrigate following onset of frost to prevent winter dehydration in cooler weather.
- **Pest Control:** Scout for early symptoms of insect or disease damage and apply recommended chemical controls to prevent grass injury.
- **Fertilization:** Do not fertilize the lawn at this time in central Florida. One month before expected first frost, apply 1 pound of potash per 1000 square feet using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-60) or 2 pounds of potassium sulfate (0-0-50) to increase grass winter hardiness. Do not apply potassium during hot periods or if the lawn is under water stress. Irrigate after application to prevent chemical burn.

CITRUS

- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches, do not prune after October to avoid damage

FALL 2010

Inside this issue:

Fall Checkdlist	1 & 2
FYN	3
"Ask A Master Gardener"	4
Teaching Garden News	5
Pest Alert: Oriental fruit flies	5
Events Updates & Services	6

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Urban Horticulturist
Seminole County Extension

AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Test performed Mon. & Fri.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon. - Fri. 8:00am. -5:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Fertilization:** Transplanted trees should be fertilized only after new growth starts. For fruit bearing trees, the 4th and last fertilization of the year should be in October. Spread the fertilizer over the area from about one ft. from the trunk to 3 ft. past the drip line. Apply a special citrus or fruit tree fertilizer ¼ the total amount recommended per year (Total pounds of fertilizer per year is equal to total inches of tree trunk circumference).
- **Irrigation:** Citrus should be irrigated twice a week with ½ to 1 inch of water in absence of rain. One inch of water per week can be applied during the cooler months of the year.
- **Weed control:** Citrus should be kept free of weeds and never mulched. Keep the weeds away from young trees in the 3 ft. area around the trunk. For older trees, keep weeds out of the area under the canopy of the tree by mowing or using herbicides. Be careful when using any herbicide, it is safer to use herbicides with no soil activity such as Round up (glyphosate). Do not apply herbicides during windy conditions that may carry the herbicide and cause damage to the tree or other plants.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized Three times per year and in deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use a special palm fertilizer to supply magnesium and manganese so important for palm growth. Use 1.5 pounds of fertilizer per 100 square feet in October. If nutritional deficiencies of a particular nutrient are visible, additional applications of that nutrient may be necessary to correct the problem. **Do not apply a turf fertilizer near palms, high nitrogen fertilizers can induce severe to fatal potassium and magnesium deficiencies in landscape palms.**
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date palms should not be irrigated as frequently as turf.
- **Pruning:** Old dead leaves should be removed by cutting them from the underside to avoid tearing the fibers of the palm's stem. Do not remove green or slightly spotted leaves, palms need all the available green photosynthetic area to produce food.



Fall Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Beets, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Onions, Parsley, English peas, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach, Strawberry, and Turnips.

HERBS - Anise, Basil, Bay laurel, Coriander, Dill, Lemon balm, Lavender, Mexican tarragon, Mint, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet fennel, Thyme and Sweet marjoram.



1. Right Plant, Right Place
2. Water Efficiently
3. Fertilize Appropriately
4. Mulch
5. Attract Wildlife
6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly
7. Recycle
8. **Reduce Stormwater Runoff**
9. Protect the Waterfront

What is a Rain Garden? Do have a need to slow you're flow of water through your yard?

A rain garden is a shallow excavated (4-10 inches) and planted area that increases the infiltration rate of roof or hard surface area runoff. Building a rain garden is the perfect way to slow the flow. The rain garden area will consist of an excavated area sized by the volume of water needed to be captured; it is typically an area ranging from 100-300 square feet, have a down- ward edge berm, filled with compost, mulched, and planted. Decorative shells or rocks are optional.

In a typical rain storm an average of ½" of water may fall. The water can be collected in a rain garden and help percolation occur more rapidly. Rain gardens can be created in various sizes, shapes and themes. Much of that water runs off of your yard and into the street and can carry stormwater pollution into a local waterway and cause water quality problems. That may not sound like a lot of water but that amount over a 1000 sq. ft. area of roof top may yield 600 gallons of water. There is a certain amount of information that you need to determine prior to designing your rain garden, so think about:

Where should I locate a rain garden? A rain garden should be located 10-30 feet away from your home to keep the water directed away from your foundation and near an active roof drainage downspout. Remember water runs down hill so you most likely will have to do some contouring to get the water to flow into your garden.

A percolation test for the area is recommended and can be done to determine your soil porosity and drainage conditions. Also, think about how it can be incorporated into your existing yard. Keep away from a septic field and under large trees.

What size and shape should the garden be? It depends on the soil type, how much roof runoff will drain into your garden.

How deep should your garden be? Between 4-8 inches deep and have about a 5 percent to 7 percent slope.

What should I plant in my rain garden? You can use a variety of plants but, you need to know the mature size, bloom time. Grouping plants by mature size from the middle to the edge will help the balance and look of the garden. A diverse mixture of sedges, rushes, and grasses mixed with flowering plants is a good mix.

How do I maintain my rain garden? You will need to weed, remove dead stems and seed heads and cut back plants in the spring. If designed and constructed properly a rain garden will most likely need no special maintenance than the rest of your yard.

For more information call or email Gabrielle Milch at 407-665-5575 and fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. How to build rain garden classes will be offered occasionally at the Extension Office, special programs can be scheduled for a minimum of 10 participants.





"Ask A Master Gardener"

407-665-5550

We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
407-665-5550

A word about "organic" pesticides Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as "organic" (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually breaks down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water
2 tbsp dish soap
(without degreasers)
2 tbsp vegetable oil
Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so, water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water
4 teaspoons of baking soda
1 oz. horticulture oil
Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

**test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying*

- Q. It is August and my potted geranium (outdoors) is stressed. What should I do?
- A. For Central Floridians, geraniums pose some problems. They cannot tolerate a freeze, but they also do poorly in our summer heat and humidity. For Central Florida, they are at their best in early spring. Some people treat them as annuals in Central Florida, but well attended specimens can survive for several years in a pot. For additional tips refer to University of Florida IFAS Circular 472, Geraniums for Florida available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/edfiles/MG/MG03300.pdf> or visit the Extension Office and ask a Master Gardener to print a copy for you.
- Q. The leaves on my oak tree have disfiguring pock marks that resemble blisters. What should I do?
- A. Your oak tree is most likely infected with a fungus with the common name oak leaf blister. Although infected trees may have unsightly leaves, serious damage is uncommon. The fungus infects young leaves as they emerge and takes several weeks for the damage to become apparent. The disease affects only the leaves and favors wet conditions in the spring. No treatment is recommended.
- Q. My St. Augustine grass died this summer, but no insects or pathogens were found in the examination. What happened?
- A. Most likely chinch bugs infested the grass and were undetected before the grass died. Severe infestations of chinch bugs can kill a St. Augustine lawn in 3 to 4 weeks if undetected and untreated. Once the grass dies, the chinch bugs either die or abandon the immediate area, leaving little conclusive evidence behind in the dead grass. The best defenses against chinch bugs are early detection and treatment and following the University of Florida IFAS best management practices (BMP) for lawn care.





The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32771

"The Extension Office gardens have been limping through the HOT summer with minimal care, providing a good study in self-sufficient plant materials for sunny to shady areas in *your* gardens. This fall will bring some new plantings with re-focused themes to the sun, partial sun, shade and butterfly garden areas."

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

Happy new school year and new exhibits in the SM Gardens. Come out and enjoy the history and legends of Florida pioneers and the native American Three Sister garden. There are thirteen gardens to stroll while you enjoy the historical Sanford neighborhood. The long winter and hot summer has brought out many surprises and ideas about hardy plants that can take the cold and heat. Sponsored in part by the SCPC Student Museum and the Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com



Sunflower at the Student Museum

Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Plump clusters of tiny purple berries, encircling the stems of our native American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, shrub are a showpiece in any garden and ready for feasting birds. (And, humans who add enough sugar to make a beautyberry jelly).

Coordinators: Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

Please join the Seminole County
Master Gardener EXPO on
November 6, 2010

10am-4pm

Red Bug Lake Park

Expert Speakers and Demonstrations

To learn more;

<http://seminolemastergardenersshow.org>



Pest Alert: Oriental fruit flies found in Pinellas County

Just when we thought it was safe to have oranges free of fruit flies maggots after the news that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services had declared that the medfly infestation has been eradicated from Palm Beach County, came the news that two male Oriental fruit flies have been found in a trap in a grapefruit tree in Safety Harbor, Pinellas County, Fl. The Oriental fruit fly is considered one of the most serious of the world's fruit fly pests due to its potential economic impact. It attacks more than 100 different fruits, vegetables and nuts, including citrus, apples, guava, mango, tomatoes and peppers. The fruit flies lay their eggs in the fruits and vegetables and in a few weeks, the larvae or maggots hatch making them inedible. The department has launched an intensified trapping program in an 81-square mile area surrounding the fruit fly find in Pinellas County until mid December. If any more flies are found the trapping will continue and an insecticide will be applied to telephone poles along with a substance that attracts the flies. As of this date, no additional fly has been found.





EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

Seminole County Extension

Home Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773
Located across from Flea
World, 17-92 & County Home
Road

— — — — —
Your Community Resource
For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
— — — — —

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension
Services

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB
Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email
AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

Newsletter Contributors:

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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

October 7 , 2010
6:00pm- 8:30pm

How to Design FFL
FREE!!!!

Seminole County Ext. Aud.
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

October 9, 2010
9:30am-Noon

Florida Friendly Landscapes
For HOA & Pro. Mang.
Seminole County Ext. Auditorium
Central Florida Gardens
Seminole County Ext. Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

November 6, 2010
10:00am-4:00pm

Seminole County Master
Gardener EXPO
Red Bug Lake Park
Expert Speakers & Demonstrations
Educational Exhibits, Book signing
Plants & Horticulture for sale
MUCH MORE !!!!!

<http://seminolemastergardenershow.org>

November 11, 2010
6:30pm-8:30pm

Rain Barrels, Cisterns and
Rainwater Harvesting
Seminole County Extension Aud.
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

December 9, 2010
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Interesting Pests and Yard Issues
Seminole County Extension Aud.
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

December 11, 2010
9:00am-11:30am

Yard Recycling-Composting-Mulch
Seminole County Extension Aud.
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
For Questions 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

